

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 1
HENRICO, VA
December 10, 2025**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) was convened on December 10, 2025, at 9:09 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor Conference Center, Board Room 1, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- FIRST CONFERENCE:** 9:09 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Bailey, DVM, Chairperson
Richard Godine, DVM, Committee Member
- STAFF PRESENT:** Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Emily Tatum, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Salima Lauypar
Maleek Salem
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Ayman Salem, Veterinarian Reinstatement Applicant
Cases 214456, 216642, 249395**
- DISCUSSION:** Dr. Salem appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated November 3, 2025, to consider his application to reinstate his license to practice as a veterinarian in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Salem was not represented by counsel.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Dr. Godine moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding Dr. Salem, Veterinarian Reinstatement Applicant. Additionally, Dr. Godine moved that Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The

motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed, or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION:

Case Nos. 214456, 216642, 249395

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee deny Dr. Salem's application to reinstate his license to practice as a veterinarian in Virginia. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 10:21 a.m.

SECOND CONFERENCE:

10:32 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Bailey, DVM, Chairperson
Richard Godine, DVM, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Emily Tatum, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Jennifer Edens, Veterinarian
Case No. 244416

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Edens appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated November 12, 2025, to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary medicine in Virginia. Dr. Edens was represented by Michael Thorsen, Esq.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the

matter regarding Jennifer Edens, Veterinarian. Additionally, Dr. Godine moved that Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed, or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION:

Case No. 244416

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee dismiss the case against Dr. Edens. Dr. Godine further moved that the basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order sent to Dr. Edens. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 11:02 a.m.

THIRD CONFERENCE:

1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Bailey, DVM, Chairperson
Richard Godine, DVM, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director
Heather Pote, Sr. Discipline Case Specialist
Christine Corey, Esq., Sr. Adjudication Specialist,
Administrative Proceedings Division

MATTER SCHEDULED:

Elton Vyfhuis, Veterinarian
Case No. 251492
Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital
Cases 225484 and 251354

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Vyfhuis did not appear before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal

Conference dated October 29, 2025, to inquire into allegations that he and the establishment where he is veterinarian-in-charge may have violated certain laws and regulations governing veterinary practice in Virginia. Dr. Bailey ruled that adequate notice had been provided to Dr. Vyfhuis and to the establishment and that the informal conference would proceed.

CLOSED SESSION:

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matters regarding Elton Vyfhuis, Veterinarian and Paws, Purrs, and Exotics Animal Hospital. Additionally, Dr. Godine moved that Ms. Foley attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENE:

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed, or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

DECISION:

**Case No. 251492, 225848,
and 251354**

Dr. Godine moved that the Committee issue an Order reprimanding Dr. Vyfhuis, issuing a monetary penalty of \$2,500, ordering the completion of continuing education, and that Dr. Vyfhuis not serve as veterinarian-in-charge of any establishment for no less than two years, and an Order requiring Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital to pay its outstanding inspection fee, register a new veterinarian-in-charge with the Board, and be subject to a compliance inspection within one year. Dr. Godine further moved that the basis for this decision will be set forth in final Board Orders sent to Dr. Vyfhuis and Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The hearing concluded at 1:38 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Foley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Claire Foley, J.D., Deputy Executive Director